

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 21 - 25 are pending in the application, with claims 21-25 being the independent claims. Claims 1-20 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter

In the Action on page 3, section 7, the Examiner indicates that claims 21-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 21-25 are amended to include the subject matter of the claim(s) on which they depend.

Objections to the Claims

In the Action on page 2, section 1, claim 3 is objected to due to a typographical error. Claim 3 is canceled, rendering the objection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action on page 2, section 3, claims 1-8, 10, 12-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oda et al.

In the Action on page 2, section 4, claims 1, 5-13, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ruppman Sr. et al.

Claims 1-20 are canceled, rendering the rejections moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

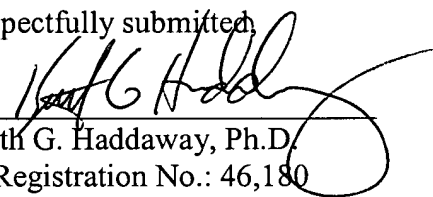
In the Action on page 3, section 5, claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruppman Sr. et al. Claim 19 is canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: October 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Keith G. Haddaway, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 46,180

VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
(202) 344-4000
(202) 344-8300 (Fax)
Attorney For Applicant